

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

DANIEL AARON STONE,

Petitioner,

vs.

Case No. 17-cv-1316-DRH

WILLIAM TRUE,

Respondent.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

HERNDON, District Judge:

Petitioner, currently incarcerated in U.S. Penitentiary Marion, brings this habeas corpus action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 to challenge the loss of good conduct time based on discipline he received at Federal Correctional Institution Gilmer, in West Virginia. (Doc. 1, pp. 1-2).

Rule 4 of the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases in United States District Courts provides that upon preliminary consideration by the district court judge, “[i]f it plainly appears from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief in the district court, the judge must dismiss the petition and direct the clerk to notify the petitioner.” Rule 1(b) of those Rules gives this Court the authority to apply the rules to other habeas corpus cases.

The Petition

Petitioner lost 41 days of good conduct time based on Incident Report 2502926, which charged him with a violation of Code 197, “use of a telephone for an illegal purpose.” (Doc. 1, p. 1).

The subject events took place between March 21, 2012 and June 28, 2013, but Petitioner alleges that he was estopped from availing himself of an administrative remedy prior to July 12, 2017. (Doc. 1, p. 1). The hearing on the October 10, 2013 disciplinary report took place on October 28, 2013. (Doc. 1, p. 3). A written summary of the findings was generated on November 5, 2013, but Petitioner alleges that he never got a copy of the report, despite an allegedly false statement that an officer attempted to deliver the report on November 15, 2013. (Doc. 1, pp. 4, 16). On December 21, 2013, Petitioner asked for a copy of the report so that he could appeal it, but staff told him that his administrative appeal would be untimely. (Doc. 1, p. 4). Based on that representation, and because prison staff offered to restore Petitioner’s access to TRULINCS, Petitioner failed to file an appeal. (Doc. 1, p. 5). Petitioner did not then file an administrative appeal until July 12, 2017. *Id.*

Petitioner alleges that his due process rights were violated when he was deprived of his good conduct credit. (Doc. 1, pp. 6-7).

Discussion

A petition seeking habeas corpus relief is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 when challenging the fact or duration of a prisoner’s confinement. *Preiser v.*

Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 475, 490 (1973). A claim for restoration of wrongfully revoked good conduct credit is properly brought in a § 2241 action. *Jones v. Cross*, 637 F.3d 841 (7th Cir. 2011); *Waletzki v. Keohane*, 13 F.3d 1079 (7th Cir. 1994).

Petitioner alleges that he was not given due process when deprived of his good conduct credit. In the context of a prison disciplinary hearing, due process requires that the prisoner receive: (1) written notice of the claimed violation at least 24 hours before hearing; (2) an opportunity to call witnesses and present documentary evidence (when consistent with institutional safety) to an impartial decision-maker; and (3) a written statement by the fact-finder of the evidence relied on and the reasons for the disciplinary action. *See Scruggs v. Jordan*, 485 F.3d 934, 939 (7th Cir. 2007); *Wolff v. McDonnell*, 418 U.S. 539 (1974). A disciplinary decision must be supported by “some evidence” to satisfy due process. *Scruggs*, 485 F.3d at 941 (quoting *Superintendent v. Hill*, 472 U.S. 445, 454 (1985) (revocation of good conduct credits must be supported by “some evidence” in order to satisfy due process concerns)); *Austin v. Pazera*, 779 F.3d 437 (7th Cir. 2015); *Grandberry v. Smith*, 754 F.3d 425, 426 (7th Cir. 2014).

Petitioner’s request for restoration of good conduct credit is properly raised in the habeas petition. *Jones*, 637 F.3d 841 (presenting due process claim); *Waletzki*, 13 F.3d 1079 (denial of good time credits lengthened sentence and brought claim within ambit of § 2241). His claim of specific due process violations

in connection with disciplinary charges and hearing are also properly addressed in this habeas action.

It is possible that Petitioner failed to exhaust his administrative remedies, but at the pleading stages, he has alleged that he was prevented from doing so, and so the Court will leave this issue for further development.

Without commenting on the merits of Petitioner's claims, the Court concludes that the petition survives preliminary review under Rule 4 and Rule 1(b) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in United States District Courts.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that respondent shall answer the § 2241 petition (Doc. 1) or otherwise plead within thirty days of the date this Order is entered. This preliminary order to respond does not, of course, preclude the Government from raising any objection or defense it may wish to present. Service upon the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, 750 Missouri Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois, shall constitute sufficient service.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Local Rule 72.1(a)(2), this cause is referred to United States Magistrate Judge Clifford J. Proud for further pre-trial proceedings.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that this entire matter be **REFERRED** to United States Magistrate Judge Proud for disposition, as contemplated by Local Rule 72.2(b)(2) and 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), *should all the parties consent to such a referral.*

Petitioner is **ADVISED** of his continuing obligation to keep the Clerk (and each opposing party) informed of any change in his whereabouts during the pendency of this action. This notification shall be done in writing and not later than seven days after a transfer or other change in address occurs. Failure to provide such notice may result in dismissal of this action. See FED. R. CIV. P. 41(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Judge Herndon
2018.01.22
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United States District Judge